

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amend the claim set, replacing all prior versions, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, as detailed in the following complete listing of all claims:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of allowing a user to obtain a desired service using a processing system, the method utilising components, each component corresponding to a respective service portion provided by a respective entity, the method including causing the processing system to:

a) Provide component specifications to the user for a plurality of different components, the component specifications being indicative of the respective service portion associated with the corresponding component, and at least some of the different components being provided by different entities, thereby allowing the user to select a plurality of components;

b) Determine a combination of the selected plurality of components in accordance with input commands received from the user, the defined component combination defining a sequence of service portions and one or more user defined interconnections between at least some of the components defining transfer of data between the entities of the respective components; and,

c) Implement the plurality of components in accordance with the component combination, wherein a service request is transferred to each entity requesting the respective service portion to be performed, and wherein each service request includes an indication of the interconnections of the respective component, thereby causing the sequence of service portions to be performed, such that the desired service is performed.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, the processing system including a base station coupled to one or more end stations via a communications network, the method including allowing the user to use the end station to:

a) Select the plurality of components; and,

b) Define a component combination using the selected plurality of components.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, the method including causing the base station to:

- a) Receive a component request from the end station;
- b) Transfer an indication of the plurality of different components to the end station in accordance with the request, thereby allowing the user to select the plurality of components.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, the method including causing the base station to:

- a) Receive a component selection from the end station, the component selection indicating the selected plurality of components; and,
- b) Transfer details of the selected plurality of components to the end station in response to the request, thereby allowing the user to define the component combination.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 2, the base station including a store for storing component specifications representing the service portion provided by a respective component and, a processor, the method including causing the processor to:

- a) Access the component specifications stored in the store; and,
- b) Provide an indication of the services provided by the components to the end station, thereby allowing the user to select respective ones of the components.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, at least some of the components including one or more ports, the store being further adapted to store port specifications, each port specification indicating any information to be received by or output from the port, the method including causing the processor to:

- a) Access the port specifications stored in the store; and,
- b) Provide an indication of the information to the end station, thereby allowing the user to select the components.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6, the method including allowing the user to define the component combination by connecting the ports of the selected plurality of components using the end station.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, the method including connecting the ports in accordance with the port information defined in the port specifications.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, the method including causing the base station and/or the end station to:

- a) Generate a graphical representation of the selected plurality of components; and,
- b) Manipulate the graphical representation in response to input commands received from the user to thereby define the component combination.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, the method further including causing the base station to:

- a) Obtain a graphical representation of each of the selected plurality of components;
- b) Transfer the graphical representations to the end station.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, the method including causing the base station and end station to implement the combined components in accordance with the generated graphical representation.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, the components being implemented by component processing systems, the method of implementing the combined components including:

- a) Generating the service request for each component in the component combination; and,
- b) Transferring the service request to each entity via the communications network, each entity being adapted to respond to the service request to implement the data manipulation embodied by the respective component.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, the method including:
 - a) Determining any information required by the components; and,
 - b) Providing the information in the service request.
14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein at least some of the components include one or more ports for receiving or outputting data, wherein each service request includes an indication of the interconnections for each of the ports of the respective component.
15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, the method including causing each component processing system to:
 - a) Implement one or more respective component instances in accordance with the received service request; and,
 - b) Cause each component instance to:
 - i) Interact with other components in accordance with the interconnections defined in the service request; and,
 - ii) Perform any required information manipulations.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 14, the method including causing each component processing system to:
 - a) Implement a respective agent associated with each port; and,
 - b) Cause each agent to cooperate with an agent of another component in accordance with the defined interconnections, to thereby allow data to be transferred between the ports.
17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, at least some of the services being adapted to manipulate information, the entity being adapted to perform the service by:
 - a) Receiving the information to be manipulated at one or more ports;
 - b) Performing the manipulation; and,
 - c) Providing the manipulated information at one of the ports.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, the method including transferring the manipulated information to one or more components in accordance with the defined component combination.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, the method including causing the base station to:

a) Determine performance information, the performance information being representative of one or more criteria regarding the implementation of the components by the respective entities;

b) Provide the performance information to the user, the user selecting the components in accordance with the performance information.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, the performance information including at least one of:

- a) An indication of the entity implementing the component;
- b) An indication of the geographical location of the entity;
- c) An indication of the duration for implementing the component;
- d) An indication of a cost associated with implementing the respective component; and,
- e) A rating, the rating being indicative of the success of the component.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, the method including providing a number of different components for performing equivalent service portions, the different components being provided by different entities so that the user selects one of the components provided by one of the different entities in accordance with the performance information.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 1, the method including generating revenue by charging a fee for the use of each component.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22, the method including:

a) Providing at least some of the revenue to the entity implementing the respective component; and,

b) Having an operator of the base station retain at least some of the revenue.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for allowing a user to obtain a desired service, the service being implemented using components, each component corresponding to a respective service portion provided by a respective entity, the system including a processing system adapted to that:

a) ~~Provide~~ Provides an indication of component specifications to the user for a plurality of different components, the component specifications being indicative of the respective service portion associated with the corresponding component, and at least some of the different components being provided by different entities, thereby allowing the user to select a plurality of components;

b) ~~Determine~~ Determines, using a processor, a combination of the selected plurality of components in accordance with input commands received from the user, the defined component combination defining a sequence of service portions and one or more user defined interconnections between at least some of the components defining transfer of data between the entities of the respective components; and,

c) Causes, using the processor, the plurality of components to be implemented in accordance with the component combination, by transferring a service request to each entity requesting the respective service portion to be performed, and wherein each service request includes an indication of the interconnections of the respective component, thereby causing the sequence of service portions to be performed, such that the desired service to be performed.

25. (Original) A system according to claim 24, the system including a base station coupled to one or more end stations via a communications network.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of allowing users to manipulate data, the method including:

a) Providing a plurality of components by providing component specifications to the users for a plurality of different components, each component representing a respective service portion implemented by a respective entity, and the component specifications being indicative of the respective service portion associated with the corresponding component, and at least some of the different components being provided by different entities, thereby allowing the user to select the plurality of components;

b) Allowing users to define a combination of the selected plurality of components, ~~component~~ the defined component combination defining a sequence of service portions and one or more user defined interconnections between at least some of the components defining transfer of data between the entities of the respective components; and,

c) Causing the service portions to be implemented in accordance with the defined combination, wherein a service request is transferred to each entity requesting the respective service portion to be performed, and wherein each service request includes an indication of the interconnections of the respective component.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 27, the method including:

- a) For each component, receive a component specification from a respective entity; and,
- b) Provide details of the plurality of different components to the user in response to a request, thereby allowing the user to request implementation of the plurality of components, the details being determined from the specification.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 27, the method including causing the processing system to:

- a) Determine performance information, the performance information being representative of one or more criteria regarding the implementation of the components;
- b) Provide the performance information to a user, the user selecting the components in accordance with the performance information.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, the performance information including at least one of:

- a) An indication of the entity implementing the component;
- b) An indication of the geographical location of the entity;
- c) An indication of the duration for implementing the component;
- d) An indication of a cost associated with implementing the respective component; and,
- e) A rating, the rating being indicative of the success of the component.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29, the method including:

- a) Providing a number of different components for performing equivalent services, the different components being provided by different entities so that the user selects one of the components provided by one of the different entities in accordance with the performance information.

32. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for allowing users to manipulate data, the apparatus including a processing system ~~adapted to that~~:

- a) ~~Provide~~ Provides access to a plurality of components by providing, using an output device, an indication of component specifications to the users for a plurality of different components, each component representing a respective service portion performed by a respective entity for manipulating data, and the component specifications being indicative of the respective service portion associated with the corresponding component, and at least some of the different components being provided by different entities, thereby allowing the user to select, using an input device, the plurality of components;

- b) ~~Allow user~~ Allows users to define, using the input device, a combination of the selected plurality of components, wherein the user defines one or more interconnections between at least some of the components, the one or more interconnections representing transfer of data between the entities of the respective components to perform the service; and,

- c) ~~Cause~~ Causes, using a processor, the plurality of components to manipulate data in accordance with the defined combination, wherein a service request is transferred to each entity requesting the respective service portion to be performed, and wherein each service request includes an indication of the interconnections of the respective component.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a component embodying a service portion using a processing system, the service portion being performed by an entity, the method including:

- a) Determining a service portion to be performed;
- b) Determining a method of performing the service portion;
- c) Generating a component specification defining the service portion, the component specification being indicative of the service portion associated with the component and including port specifications defining any information to be received or output from the respective port;
- d) Providing the component specification to a user, thereby allowing the user to select the component from a plurality of different components, at least some of the different components being provided by different entities;
- e) Receiving a service request to perform the service portion, wherein the service request includes an indication of user defined interconnections of the component with one or more other components of a combination of a plurality of components to perform a service, wherein the one or more interconnections define transfer of data between entities of the respective components to perform the service; and
- f) Performing the service portion in accordance with the service request.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 35, the method including further determining a private component specification defining the method of performing the service portion.

37. (Original) A method according to claim 35, the method including providing the component specification to a processing system, the processing system being adapted to provide details of the component to users thereby allowing users to select the component for use.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 35, the method including defining a component server to be implemented by the processing system, the component server being adapted to generate component instances performing the service portion.

39. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing a component embodying a service portion using a processing system, the apparatus including a processing system that:

a) ~~Determine~~ Determines, using a processor, in accordance with user input commands:

i) A service portion to be performed;

ii) A method of performing the service portion; and,

b) ~~Generate~~ Generates, using the processor, a component specification defining the service portion, the component specification being indicative of the service portion associated with the component and including port specifications defining any data to be received or output from the ports;

c) ~~Provide~~ Provides the component specification to a user, thereby allowing the user to select the component from a plurality of different components, at least some of the different components being provided by different entities;

d) ~~Reeeive~~ Receives a service request to perform the service portion, wherein the service request includes an indication of user defined interconnections of the component with one or more other components of a combination of a plurality of components to perform a service, wherein the one or more interconnections define transfer of data between entities of the respective components to perform the service; and

e) Causes, using the processor, the service portion to be performed in accordance with the service request.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a service portion embodied in a component using a processing system, the method including causing the processing system to:

a) Receive a service request, wherein the service request includes an indication of user defined interconnections of the component with one or more other components of a combination of a plurality of components to perform a service, wherein the one or more interconnections define transfer of data between entities of the respective components to perform the service;

b) Generate a respective component instance in response to the received service request;

c) Obtain any required information, at least a portion of the information being obtained from at least one other entity via one of the interconnections; and,

d) Perform the service portion in accordance with the service request.

43. (Original) A method according to claim 42, the method including causing the processing system to perform the service portion using at least one of:

a) A predetermined process; and,

b) Input commands received from an operator.

44. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing a service portion embodied in a component, the apparatus including a processing system that:

a) ~~Receive~~ Receives a service request, wherein the service request includes an indication of user defined interconnections of the component with one or more other components of a combination of a plurality of components to perform a service, wherein the one or more interconnections define transfer of data between entities of the respective components to perform the service;

b) ~~Generate~~ Generates, using a processor, a respective component instance in response to the received service request;

c) ~~Obtain~~ Obtains any required information, at least a portion of the information being obtained from at least one other entity via one of the interconnections; and,

d) Causes, using the processor, the service portion to be performed in accordance with the service request.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein each agent negotiates with the agent of another component in accordance with the defined interconnections to select between available data types and formats and to thereby allow data to be transferred between the ports.